

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAO PA 02941 191624Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----060130 191627Z /41

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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8108
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAO PAULO 2941

STADIS////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), BR
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 277444 AND BRASILIA 9546

AS INSTRUCTED BRASILIA'S 9546, CONSUL GENERAL SAW CARDINAL ARNS
NOVEMBER 19 AT CNBB REGIONAL OFFICE.
CARDINAL RECALLED WITH PLEASURE HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH SECRETARY
VANCE AND CONFIRMED HIS REQUEST FOR MEETING. UNFORTUNATELY,
HE HAS SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS NOVEMBER 22 IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL WHICH
HE MUST KEEP. REGRETS HE WILL BE UNABLE TO BE IN BRASILIA.

CARDINAL ASKED CONSUL GENERAL TO CONVEY THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT HE
WISHED TO SAY TO THE SECRETARY. CARDINAL IS
VERY CONCERNED ABOUT GENERAL FIGUEIREDO'S REPORTED SELECTION
AS BRAZIL'S NEXT PRESIDENT. CARDINAL BELIEVES POLITICAL SITUATION
WILL DETERIORATE UNDER GIGUEIREDO AND PERHAPS BEFORE HE TAKES
OFFICE. HE BELIEVES THAT ALL THE GAINS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE WILL
BE LOST. HE CONSIDERS FIGUEIREDO A HARD LINER CLOSELY ALIGNED
WITH MEDICI AND REACTIONARY FORCES. CARDINAL SAID HE RECENTLY
HAD PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL DILLERMANO, COMMANDER II
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ARMY IN SAO PAULO, AND GENERAL TOLD HIM FRANKLY THAT FIGUEIREDO
WAS NOT GEISEL'S CHOICE BUT BEING IMPOSED ON HIM. CARDINAL
CITED SELECTION OF GENERAL BETHLEM AS ARMY MINISTER AND SAID THIS
WAS TO PLACATE HARD LINERS. GENERAL DILLERMANO TOLD CARDINAL
THAT HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL BEFORE BETHLEM'S
SELECTION THAT HE, DILLERMANO, WAS TOO TAINED WITH LIBERAL
POSITIONS TO BE ABLE TO SUCCEED FROTA. CARDINAL CONCURS WITH

DILLERMAN'S REPORTED VIEW THAT THE FROTA HARD LINERS ARE STILL
A FACTOR TO BE RECKONED WITH. CARDINAL WANTED TO URGE SECRETARY
VANCE TO TAKE SOME INITIATIVE (LITERALLY EXERT PRESSURE)
TO HELP PREVENT OVERALL POLITICAL SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING.
HE WAS NOT MORE SPECIFIC.

CARDINAL BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ'S VISIT AND HIS REMARKS
ABOUT DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON RADIO
AND TV, AS WELL AS IN THE PRESS, HAS BEEN A POSITIVE FACTOR IN
THE CURRENT BRAZILIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE,
CARDINAL THOUGHT, WAS THE LETTER FROM THE SAO PAULO UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS IN WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS THEY CALLED PRESIDENT
CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION A QUOTE FARCE UNQUOTE. HE THOUGHT
O ESTADO'S EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 19 HARPOONING THE STUDENTS HAD
TAKEN JUST THE RIGHT LINE AND HE PLANNED TO TAKE THE SAME LINE
IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL.
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